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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17-21, and 25-33 were pending in the present application. In the foregoing amendments, claims 1 and 30 have been amended, and claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification and claims of the application as filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 7, 29, 30, 32 and 33 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onada *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,117,502), hereinafter referred to as Onada, in view of Yi (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,427). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

To expedite prosecution of the application, in the foregoing amendments, independent claims 1 and 30 each have been amended to explicitly incorporate limitations of claim 8, which was objected to in the Office Action, and are therefore in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the rejections of these claims to be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 3, 7, 29, 32, and 33 each depend from one of independent claims 1 and 30, and are allowable as well, for at least the reasons stated above. Applicants respectfully request the rejections of these claims to be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 2, 4 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 12-13, 17-21, 25-28 and 31 were allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Dependent claims 2 and 4 each depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable as well, for at least the reasons stated above. Applicants respectfully request the objections of these claims to be withdrawn. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

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REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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